

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 IO-14 EB-11 SAM-01 OMB-01

OIC-04 AEC-11 AECE-00 DRC-01 /163 W

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Z 171645Z MAY 74

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5767

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY VIENNA FLASH

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T USNATO 2746

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: SPC BEGINS DISCUSSION OF DATA

VIENNA FOR USDEL MBFR

REF: USNATO 2707

SUMMARY: THERE FOLLOWS REPORT OF SPC MAY 17 DISCUSSION OF DATA, WITH HIGH PRECEDENCE COPY TO USDEL MBFR AT SPECIFIC TELEPHONIC REQUEST OF DEPREP DEAN TO DCM MCAULIFFE. DURING DISCUSSION, IN WHICH ONLY GENERAL VIEWS WERE AIRED, FRG, NETHERLANDS AND UK ARGUED STRONGLY THAT DETAILED DATA SHOULD NOT BE TRANSMITTED OFFICIALLY TO AHG UNTIL ALLIES HAD DISCUSSED OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS WITHIN THE ALLINCE. SPC RETURNS TO DATA ON MORNING MAY 21. FURTHER PROGRESS WILL PROBABLY BE DELAYED UNTIL SPC MEETING MAY 24, SINCE WG WILL ONLY TAKE ACTION ON DATA PACKAGE AFTERNOON MAY 21. END SUMMARY

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1. CHAIRMAN (KASTL) OPENED DISCUSSION BY SAYING SPC HAD BEEN UNABLE TO DISCUSS DATA THUS FAR BECAUSE WG HAD NOT BEEN READY TO REPORT OUT AGREED DATA, HE THEN INVITED WG CHAIRMAN (SMITH) TO PROVIDE STATUS REPORT ON LATEST WG ACTIONS. WG CHAIRMAN DREW ON

SPEAKING NOTE (TEXT SEPTTEL), ADDING THAT ONE NATION (FRG) HAD ARGUED STRONGLY FOR PUTTING ONLY GROSS FIGURES TO VIENNA AT THIS TIME (SEE PARA 1 OF REFTTEL).

2. FOLLOWING WG PRESENTATION, CHAIRMAN THEN SAID SPC DISCUSSION OF DATA WAS PARTICULARLY TIMELY, SINCE ALLIES WOULD HAVE TO DECIDE WHETHER THEY SHOULD NOW INCREASE ALLIED FIGURE, AND WHETHER GROSS OR DETAILED FIGURES SHOULD BE PUT FORWARD TO EAST. TO ILLUSTRATE PROBLEM, CHAIRMAN MENTIONED CABLE FROM SECGEN'S REP IN VIENNA WHICH REPORTED ON MAY 16 AHG DISCUSSION OF A BEHXRENDS/SMIRNOVSKY BILATERAL. DURING THIS CONVERSATION SMIRNOVSKY REPORTEDLY STATED THAT 777,000 FIGURE COULD NOT POSSIBLY INCLUDE FRENCH FORCES STATIONED IN GERMANY. SMIRNOVSKY ALSO SAID THAT EAST DID NOT MIND IF FRENCH FORCES WERE EXCLUDED FROM TOTAL FIGURE, SINCE FRANCE DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN MBFR. IF FRENCH FORCES WERE INCLUDED, HOWEVER, THEN 777,000 FIGURE WAS "DEFINITELY TOO LOW."

3. DUTCH REP (BUWALDA) SAID THAT HE ALSO WISHED TO TOUCH ON BEHREND/SMIRNOVSKY BILATERAL AS A FACTOR WHICH SHOULD INFLUENCE CURRENT SPC DISCUSSION OF POLITICAL QUESTIONS ON DATA. IF WP CLAIMS CURRENT NATO FIGURE IS TOO LOW, ALLIES COULD CREATE IMPORTANT DIFFICULTIES FOR THEMSELVES IF THEY NOW INTRODUCED A HIGHER FIGURE. THE HAGUE THEREFORE BELIEVED THAT PRESENT TIME WAS NOT APPROPRIATE FOR INTRODUCING NEW FIGURES. SINCE THERE ALSO APPEARS TO BE CONTINUING UNCERTAINTIES WITHIN NATO'S FIGURES, OFFICIAL TRANSMISSION OF FIGURES FOR USE WITH OTHER SIDE WOULD BE PREMATURE.

4. FRG REP (RANTZAU) SUPPORTED DUTCH REP'S POSITION AND SAID BONN FIRMLY SUPPORTED THE VIEW THAT WG FIGURES SHOULD NOT BE PASSED

OFFICIALLY TO VIENNA AT THIS TIME. UK REP (LOGAN) ALSO ENDORSED DUTCH AND GERMAN POSITIONS, AND SAID ALLIANCE SHOULD DISCUSS FIGURES WITHIN ALLIANCE FULLY BEFORE OFFICIALLY RELASING
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THEM TO VIENNA. HE ADDED THAT LONDON WAS DISTURBED THAT FIGURES FOR NATO FORCES APPEARED LESS RELIABLE THAN THOSE FOR WP, SINCE ACCORDING TO WG CHAIRMAN THEY HAD SHOWN SUCH A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE. BEFORE NEW FIGURES ARE RELEASED, ALLIES SHOULD BE ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN THAT THEY WILL STAND UP BETTER THAN PREVIOUS ONES. ALLIES SHOULD ALSO BE SURE THAT DEFINITIONS AND COUNTING ASSUMPTIONS ARE IDENTICAL FOR ALL ALLIED FORCES, SO THAT GLOBAL TOTAL WILL NOT AGAIN CHANGE AS A RESULT OF FURTHER INTERNAL REVIEW OF ASSUMPTIONS. WG COULD PROBABLY ASSIST IN THIS EFFORT, AND COULD ALSO ASSURE SPC THAT SOURCE S WERE ADEQUATE.

5. WG CHAIRMAN REPLIED THAT MAIN REASON FOR INCREASE IN NEW FIGURE WAS THAT BASIS OF COUNTING WAS DIFFERENT, WITH TWO NEW MAJOR ELEMENTS NOW BEING INCLUDED: 20,000 FRG JOINT SERVICE PERSONNEL NOT PREVIOUSLY COUNTED, AND 7,000 DUTCH "SHORT LEAVE" PERSONNEL. WHILE

IMS HAD TO RELY ON NATIONAL SUBMISSIONS FOR COMPILING ALLIED FIGURES, IT FELT CONFIDENT AFTER CUREFUL CHECKING THAT COUNTING ASSUMPTIONS WERE IF NOT IDENTICAL, AT LEAST VERY CLOSE. AS TO PACT FORCES, ALLIES HAD TO RELY ON NATO- AGREED DATA WHICH WAS NOT NECESSARILY THE BEST. SPC SHOULD BE AWARE PACT FIGURES REPRESENT ESTIMATES RATHER THAN AN ACTUAL FORCE COUNT. ESTIMATES OF ACUTAL STRENGTHS ARE DEVELOPED FROM AUTHORIZED LEVELS, SUBSEQUENTLY ADJUSTED FOR DEFICIENCIES IDENTIFIED THROUGH INTELLIGENCE SOURCES.

6. BELGIAN REP (WILLOT) MADE LENGTHY STATEMENT SAYING THAT WHILE ALLIES WOULD OBVIOUSLY HAVE TO AGREE ON POLITICAL USE OF FIGURES IN SPC, THEY SHOULD PROVIDE AHG EXPEDITIOUSLY WHATEVER AGREED FIGURES THEY CAN. MAIN REQUIREMENT IS TO EQUIP ALLIED NEGOTIATORS WITH FACTS ON ALLIED LAND FORCE STRUCTURE, SO THAT IN DISCUSSIONS WITH EAST, AND TO PROVIDE CONTINUING BASIS FOR DEMONSTRATING GROUND MANPOWER DISPARITY, ALLIES CAN SHOW WHAT THEY HAVE AND HAVE NOT INCLUDED. OF LESS IMMEDIATE IMPORTANCE IS INFORMATION ON PACT FORCE STRUCTURE. AS A RESULT HE FELT ALLIES SHOULD PUT FORWARD BOTH ALLIED GROUND AND AIR MANPOWER FIGURES, SINCE BOTH CATEGORIES ARE NOT SUBJECT TO DISAGREEMENT, AND AIR MANPOWER DATA IS NOT INTENDED FOR USE AT PRESENT IN ANY CASE.

7. UK REP CONCLUDED DISCUSSION WITH OBSERVATION THAT ALLIES DID NOT APPEAR AT THIS POINT TO HAVE CLEAR IDEA ON WHAT TO INCLUDE IN DATA TO BE PASSED OFFICIALLY TO AHG. THEY SHOULD ALSO EXAMINE
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CAREFULLY THE CONSEQUENCES OF CHANGING FIGURES, AND SHOULD INSURE THAT FIGURES FINALLY RELEASED WILL BE DURABLE. THEY SHOULD ALSO INCLUDE IN ANY TRANSMITTAL OF DATA A COMMENTARY ON HOW INEVITABLE FLUCTUATIONS IN FORCE LEVELS OVER TIME SHOULD BE EXPLAINED. IN ANY CASE, ALLIES SHOULD LOOK MORECAREFULLY AT "STRUCTURE OF FIGURES" BEFORE THEY ARE RLEASED OFFICIALLY FOR USE WITH THE EAST.

8. DATA WILL BE ON SPC AGENDA FOR MORNING MAY 21. WHILE IT IS POSSIBLE TO EXPECT FURTHER COMMENTARY OF THE TYPE NOTED ABOVE, WE DOUBT ALLLES WILL WISH TO MAKE SPECIFIC PROPOSALS ON POLITICAL QUESTIONS RELATING TO DATA UNTIL WG AGREES TO DATA PACKAGE AT MAY 21 AFTERNOON MEETING (SEE USNATO 2695 AND TABLES HAND CARRIED TO WASHINGTON). PROBABLE TIME FOR NEXT SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION ON DATA WILL THEREFORE BE FRIDAY, MAY 24.
RUMSFELD

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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